

transit operator for such operating cost have caused, or will cause, the small transit operator to suffer undue hardship.

Small transit operators are usually more reliant on Federal operating assistance than larger operators since they do not have dedicated sales tax to help fund their systems. Federal operating assistance has been eliminated, from the fiscal year 1995 level of \$710,000,000 to \$0 in fiscal year 1999. The elimination of operating assistance over the 4-year period provided little time for many small transit operators in large urbanized areas to adjust, and without the resources to make up this gap, these small transit operators might have to cut service and raise fares.

In fact, two cities in my congressional district, Arlington and Grand Prairie, may be forced to cut back their Handitran transit service to the elderly and disabled by 50 percent. The loss of federal funds comes at a time when the North Texas Council of Governments is recommending that the City of Arlington substantially expand Handitran in response to a growing need for the service. According to Arlington officials, 64% of the riders of Handitran are disabled, 23% are elderly and 14% are both elderly and disabled. Without these funds, cutbacks in services to those most in need may prove to be a reality.

I urge my fellow colleagues to examine this legislation and support this important bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 372, it was my intention to vote "no." However, I was recorded as voting "yes."

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-BRIBERY AND FAIR COMPETITION ACT OF 1998

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, last week I was pleased to introduce, together with Mr. OXLEY, Chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials, the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998. This legislation contains the changes to our laws necessary to implement the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.

I believe that this Convention will help fight bribery overseas and level the playing field for American companies. I congratulate the Administration, and Secretary Daley in particular, for their role in negotiating this important agreement.

Our nation already has one of the strongest anti-bribery laws in the world. It is my hope that by introducing this legislation we will be taking an important step forward in creating a fairer and more transparent international business environment. American business and

workers, the most competitive and productive in the world, will be the biggest beneficiaries of fair and open competition.

I look at introduction of this bill as the first step in a process and welcome and encourage the input of those who have suggestions on how we can work together to improve and enhance this legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Commerce Committee, with other Members of the House, with the Administration, with business and public interest groups and with other interested parties in developing the best possible legislation and moving the process forward.

RECOGNIZING THE KANSAS TOWN OF NICODEMUS AS A NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Kansas is home to countless towns and communities that have legendary pasts and are full of historical significance. This past weekend one of our communities marked a very special homecoming; when Nicodemus, Kansas celebrated its annual Emancipation Celebration and its recognition by the National Park Service as a National Historical Site.

Descendants of the early settlers, area residents, state and national officials, and other visitors from throughout the country were on hand to celebrate this historic event. This past weekend visitors were treated to a Buffalo Soldier re-enactment, a gospel concert, parade, and services at the historic First Baptist Church.

While many of us have heard and read the tales of the old west, Wyatt Earp, or some of Kansas' rough-and-tumble cattle towns, too few have heard the story of courage and hope that are the heritage and history of Nicodemus, Kansas.

Nicodemus was first settled in 1877 by some 300 black Americans who fled the south following the Civil War and the horrors of slavery. While many similar black settlements were founded during this period, Nicodemus remains the only such community to survive west of the Mississippi River.

The town of Nicodemus, founded soon after the darkest days of our republic, is now properly recognized as a national symbol of freedom and courage.

Mr. Speaker our state motto in Kansas reads, *Ad Astra Per Aspera*, to the stars through difficulty. And I can think of no other community that better reflects this motto than the town of Nicodemus.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for Roll Call votes 373, 374, 375, and 376 last week, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 27th, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on the adoption of H. Con. Res. 311, a resolution to honor Det. John Michael Gibson and Pfc. Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the U.S. Capitol Police. Had I been present I would have voted yes on roll call #340.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, in a few tragic moments of July 24, the peace was shattered at the U.S. Capitol and two members of the United States Capitol Police lost were killed in the line of duty. The work of the Congress paused last week to remember the sacrifice of John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut.

The investigation into this horrible tragedy is continuing. Without seeking to prejudge the outcome of that investigation, the senseless death of two police officers has proved to the world what many of us already know: there are gaping holes in the network of services designed to identify, assist, and treat those people with mental illness.

To this end, I will be working with my colleagues, Representative MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio in particular, to develop an organized response to the Capitol tragedy. We will be working with the joint Congressional Leadership to design a method by which we can evaluate and respond to the mental health crisis facing this nation.

In this context, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to a column by Frank Rich which was published in the New York Times of July 29. It should be required reading for every Member of the House and Senate.

[From the New York Times, July 29, 1998]

THIS WAY LIES MADNESS

(By Frank Rich)

The Capitol police officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson had hardly been declared dead when Senator Robert Torricelli, the New Jersey Democrat, sent out a press release arguing that tighter gun control could have prevented the tragedy. Not missing a beat, Trent Lott was soon arguing that a \$125 million bunker-barricade camouflaged as a visitors' center would repel future assailants. But in a city where most politicians are so ignorant about mental illness that they still think Whitewater, not the disease of depression, drove Vincent Foster to suicide, no one said the obvious: It is the gaping cracks in American mental-health care, not in Capitol security or gun-control laws, that most clearly delivered Russell Weston Jr. to his rendezvous with history.

Mr. Weston's paranoid schizophrenia surfaced long ago. Yet, as The Times reported, this now 41-year-old man "received no regular psychiatric treatment or medication over the last two decades and [his] family seemed to understand little about how to seek help for him." This is hardly an anomaly. E.